

Memorandum

To: Workers' Compensation System Participants

From: Jeff Carothers, Director of the Office of Workers' Compensation Counsel

Date: June 8, 2012

Subject: Informal Working Draft: Rules Relating to Chapter 166 Workers' Health and Safety-

Accident Prevention Services

The Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation (TDI-DWC) is accepting comment on informally proposed rules that add new 28 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §166.2, amend 28 TAC §§166.1, 166.3, and 166.5, and repeal existing 28 TAC §§166.2, 166.4, 166.6, 166.7, 166.8, and 166.9. This informal working draft relates to various notice, service, and reporting requirements imposed upon insurance companies with regard to accident prevention services provided to policyholders. This informal working draft is primarily designed to update, clarify, and restructure these requirements more closely with associated Texas Labor Code provisions in Chapter 411, Subchapter E, Accident Prevention Services.

The informal working draft was published on June 8, 2012 and may be viewed on the TDI website at http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/rules/drafts.html. The comment period on the informal proposal closes on Tuesday, July 10, 2012 at 5 p.m. Central Standard Time (CST).

This informal working draft is not a formal rule proposal. Accordingly, comments will not be treated as formal public comment for the purposes of the Texas Administrative Procedure Act. In addition to commenting on this informal proposal, there will be the opportunity to formally comment once the rules are proposed and published in the *Texas Register*. The TDI-DWC anticipates formal publication of the rules in early Fall 2012. The informal working draft may contain drafting notes and formatting which will be changed as necessary to comply with the *Texas Register* formatting.

Comments may be submitted by e-mailing lnformalRuleComments@tdi.state.tx.us or by mailing or delivering the comments to Maria Jimenez at:

Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation Workers' Compensation Counsel, MS-4D 7551 Metro Center Drive, Suite 100 Austin, Texas 78744-1645

The TDI-DWC has scheduled a stakeholder meeting on Friday, June 29, 2012, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (CST). The meeting will take place in the Tippy Foster Room at the TDI-DWC Central Office, 7551 Metro Center Drive, Suite 100 in Austin, Texas. The TDI-DWC provides

reasonable accommodations for persons attending meetings, hearings, or educational events, as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you require accommodations in order to attend the stakeholder meeting, contact Idalia Salazar at (512) 804-4403 at least two business days prior to the confirmed stakeholder meeting date.

The stakeholder meeting will also be audio streamed. To listen to the audio stream, access the Public Outreach Events/Training Calendar on the TDI website at http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/events/index.html and then click on the "Link to Live Webcast" link for the stakeholder meeting. Media Player 7 (or new version) or RealPlayer 10 (or newer version) is required to hear the audio stream. Audio streaming will begin approximately five minutes before the scheduled time of the stakeholder meeting.

The stakeholder meeting date, time, and location should be confirmed by a person interested in attending or listening via audio stream; the stakeholder meeting may be confirmed by visiting the TDI website at http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/rules/drafts.html.

If there are any questions regarding the information in this memo, contact Jarren Wenderlein at (512) 804-4296 or Jarren. Wenderlein@tdi.state.tx.us.